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Assistant Director for Operations

11 May 1948

Acting Chief, FBI

Colombian Rebel Broadcasts

Only one broadcast from an apparently rebel-controlled Bogota station which identified itself as the "Liberal Party Radio" was received here. This was transmitted at 1:45 a.m. on 10 April on 4808 kilocycles; other such broadcasts, which were reported in the American press, were presumably on medium or long wave channels.

The one broadcast received (only excerpts are available) was an emotional appeal to the people of Colombia to support the "glorious... great, and victorious" Liberal Party. It attacked the Conservative Party for having financed the assassination of Jorge Eliecer Gaitan—"that great leader of the people"—and declared that the Conservative Party is "the party of exploiters... of the church and the confessional." It declared that the Conservatives are inspired "by the Jesuits," and especially attacked Conservative President Laureano Gomez.

The broadcast appealed to all Liberals, particularly those in the Department of Cauca, El Valle, and coastal areas to "take up arms and join the attack"; it claimed that "the police are with us."

The available excerpts follow:

"People of Colombia! Rally around the glorious party! Rally around the glorious party! The party of the people! The party of the revolution! The only Republican Party of the country! The party of Progress! The party of industrialization! The great and victorious Liberal Party! Help achieve the liberation of the common people of Colombia!"

Claiming victorious advances throughout the country, and asserting repeatedly that "the police are with us," the announcer addressed himself in particular to the people of the Departments of Cauca, El Valle and to "the Liberals of the coast." He exhorted Liberals to "take up arms and join the attack."

The announcer also went into a lengthy discussion of the origins and aims of the revolutionary movement. He called upon the people to avenge the death of Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, "that great leader of the people," whose assassin "was paid by the Conservative Party."

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Here followed an attack on the Conservative Party, and especially against its president, Laureano Gomez. The Conservative Party was denounced as "the party of exploitation," as "the party of the church and the confessional," with particular emphasis that the Conservative Party was inspired "by the Jesuits."

The "Liberals of the coast" were told that the revolutionists had captured Medellin, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Cartagena, and Cali and that "in only a few Departments have we as yet not achieved success."

Just before the station went off the air, the announcer voiced a final exhortation to the Liberals of the country to "stand fast" till victory. No mention was made of any future broadcast.

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Acting Chief, FBIB

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